

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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NOON 12 JANUARY 1979

DIGEST OF CURRENT ECONOMIC STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA NOVEMBER 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr David Shellshear on Canberra 526627, or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The Digest contains the latest available figures at the time of issue for a selection of monthly and quarterly series. Where possible, series are shown both in their original and seasonally adjusted form.

Seasonal adjustment

Measures of variability and details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting Bureau statistics are given in Appendixes D and C, respectively, of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0). This annual publication also contains historical original and seasonally adjusted data in tabular and graphical form of a selection of the statistics appearing in the Bureau's monthly and quarterly publications.

As well as being adjusted for normal seasonal factors, some of the statistical series included in the Digest have been adjusted for the effects of calendar variations, namely, "trading-day" effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in a month) and the influence of movable holidays, e.g. Easter and Australia Day.

Most of the original and seasonally adjusted series are subject to revision.

Related publications

More detailed information is available in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1304.0). Publications from which the series in the Digest are derived are listed in page 8.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- r — figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.a. — not available
- n.y.a. — not yet available

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

PRODUCTION

Month	Black coal '000 tonnes		Iron ore (a) '000 tonnes		Lead (b) '000 tonnes		Electricity mil. kWh		Gas (c) mil. megajoules		Raw steel '000 tonnes		Cement '000 tonnes		Motor vehicles (d) '000		Electric motors under 720 W '000	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 - October	7,085	6,548	24,285	{	37.8	6,665	6,668	19,350	18,835	638	602	432	411	17.5	15.7	213	192	
November	7,533	6,546			41.1	6,692	7,085	19,353	20,602	557	564	472	441	40.5	35.7	255	202	
December	5,329	6,367			28.9	6,715	7,232	18,255	21,393	594	574	413	422	29.4	34.6	199	218	
January	4,721	7,062	20,257	{	22.6	6,544	7,290	17,044	21,534	669	650	278	412	13.1	38.2	87	179	
February	6,704	6,541			31.7	6,420	7,271	18,049	21,705	603	665	421	442	34.7	35.9	195	215	
March	6,101	7,000			33.7	7,098	7,462	19,941	21,700	675	657	423	424	37.2	35.8	201	197	
April	6,596	6,561	19,257	{	28.8	6,866	7,312	20,603	21,957	573	608	421	410	33.0	34.7	163	178	
May	8,249	6,953			32.2	7,676	7,245	23,417	21,802	706	684	432	421	39.0	32.5	169	164	
June	6,116	5,510			36.1	8,070	7,337	25,828	22,247	694	738	408	399	34.8	32.4	204	200	
1978-79 - July	6,167	5,826	21,692	{	35.2	8,555	7,541	27,472	23,169	628	628	397	371	38.1	37.4	232	228	
August	6,998	7,490			40.6	8,410	7,520	26,776	22,575	551	544	438	426	31.0	27.2	237	200	
September	6,910	6,842			36.7	7,518	7,267	22,886	21,164	593	577	477	457	37.3	33.7	279	254	
October	n.y.a.	n.y.a.			n.y.a.	7,385	7,364	22,622	21,775	660	618	436	410	40.7	36.0	250	219	
November	n.y.a.	n.y.a.			n.y.a.	7,049	7,463	22,344	23,948	597	613	455	427	42.1	36.2	276	217	

(a) Gross mine output. (b) Metallic contents of mine products. (c) Available for issue through mains; includes natural gas. (d) Includes vehicles which are disposed of by the manufacturer in a partly finished state.

PRODUCTION - continued

STOCKS (c)

Month	Cotton woven cloth (excl. towelling) '000 sq m		Woolen and worsted woven cloth (excl. blanketing) '000 sq m		Man-made fibre cloth '000 sq m		Meat '000 tonnes		Price Index Manufacturing Division (a)		Whole milk production all purposes mil. litres		Brokers and Dealers receipts of taxable wool		Book value at end of quarter \$m	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Total receipts '000 tonnes	% of total received by brokers (b)	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 - October	2,748	2,541	451	427	8,772	255	240	210.9	682	448	95,052	78.4	19,060	19,138	20,110	20,036
November	3,311	3,103	730	579	2,350	258	255	211.6	676	433	85,887	77.8				
December	2,856	3,226	496	571	8,911	213	257	212.4	605	416	49,175	73.0				
January	1,257	3,193	295	569	3,826	217	248	213.8	478	387	26,687	76.4	19,316	19,295	19,673	19,692
February	3,170	3,100	568	493	9,748	219	233	215.6	420	464	32,604	74.4				
March	3,125	2,896	648	550	9,802	242	242	217.1	372	457	38,432	68.8				
April	2,847	3,282	590	623	9,198	214	220	218.8	278	444	29,749	69.1	19,673	19,692	20,110	20,036
May	3,165	2,896	569	512	10,472	251	231	220.0	236	438	29,591	68.8				
June	3,546	3,037	567	654	11,809	229	215	221.6	224	452	20,873	62.2				
1978-79 - July	3,992	3,938	592	632	10,989	218	211	223.3	295	459	28,849	71.1	20,110	20,036	20,110	20,036
August	3,162	3,394	696	652	11,370	234	223	224.3	447	469	72,992	76.1				
September	4,314	3,555	645	650	10,747	233	229	227.0	587	476	88,205	76.5				
October	3,826	3,519	795	709	12,223	259	247	229.7	751	488	107,476	78.0	20,110	20,036	20,110	20,036
November	3,652	3,432	792	657	11,690	258	253	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.				

(a) This index is on a 'net division' basis and relates in concept only to articles which are produced in the Manufacturing Division of ASIC (Division C) for sale or transfer outside the Division or for use as capital equipment. (b) Members of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia. (c) Owned by private

OVERSEAS TRANSACTIONS

Month		Total exports, value \$m		Total imports, value \$m		Value of merchandise at average 1974-75 prices (b) Exports Imports		Export price index		Balance on current account \$m	Net apparent capital inflow \$m	Official reserve assets (a) \$m	
								All groups	All groups excl. wool				
								All groups 1959-60=100					
Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Seas. adj.		Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78	October	966	974	921	920	2,583	1,834	211	234	-151	222	3,000	3,029
	November	1,115	1,071	951	904			208	231	7	-83	2,938	2,962
	December	993	1,025	758	830			209	233	-10	-58	2,879	2,898
	January	1,013	1,043	986	939			210	235	-328	223	2,861	2,927
	February	953	1,017	854	915	2,531	1,964	212	236	-85	126	2,948	2,939
	March	952	1,008	965	989			214	239	-368	735	3,262	3,265
	April	1,010	1,036	897	963			215	240	-251	246	3,229	3,172
	May	1,042	993	1,020	76	2,444	2,026	218	245	-306	267	3,182	3,139
	June	1,123	1,046	988	999			222	247	-191	199	3,225	3,183
1978-79	July	1,073	1,086	1,051	1,014	2,230	1,976	222	249	-345	331	3,293	3,238
	August	1,032	993	1,123	1,020			226	254	-349	239	3,315	3,353
	September	933	936	946	1,015			230	259	-289	204	3,274	3,300
	October	1,129	1,146	1,176	1,134			n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-357	259	3,328	3,356
	November	1,218	1,153	1,201	1,135			n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-200	237	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

(a) From the end of June 1976 gold is valued at the average London gold price for the month converted to \$A at the market rate of exchange applying on the last day of the month. (b) Replaces estimates at average 1966-67 prices. See publication 5421.0.

INTERNAL TRADE

Month		All items except motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc. (a) \$m		Food & drink (a) \$m		Clothing, hardware, electrical and furniture (a) \$m		Other (a)(b) \$m		New motor cars and station wagons registered '000		Other new motor vehicles registered (c) '000		Instalment credit for retail sales, finance companies and other business balances outstanding (d) \$m
Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Original
1977-78	October	1,907	1,928	2,959	2,751	2,404	2,054	1,208	1,024	34.0	34.3	10.5	10.6	2,848
	November	2,018	1,941							36.6	35.5	10.6	10.2	2,875
	December	2,646	1,970							35.2	36.6	10.3	10.9	2,910
	January	1,787	1,951							30.1	36.0	8.4	10.4	2,922
	February	1,765	1,997	2,826	2,826	1,774	2,086	967	1,042	33.6	36.9	9.8	11.2	2,912
	March	1,948	1,990							34.9	34.1	10.3	10.7	2,917
	April	1,912	2,024							37.1	36.7	11.2	11.1	2,928
	May	2,120	2,052			2,189	2,167	1,003	1,068	40.3	36.1	12.8	11.2	2,924
	June	1,986	2,042							38.1	36.9	13.4	11.8	2,954
1978-79	July	1,948	2,067	2,945	3,016	2,116	2,182	1,044	1,092	38.2	37.7	12.2	11.4	2,961
	August	2,059	2,090							44.5	40.4	10.9	10.3	2,975
	September	2,066	2,120							41.6	43.0	9.8	10.3	2,987
	October	2,116	2,146							38.8	39.0	9.9	9.9	n.y.a.
	November	2,248	2,138							39.2	37.5	9.9	9.6	n.y.a.

(a) Excludes Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory. (b) Other, excludes motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc. (c) Comprises light commercial type vehicles, trucks, other truck type vehicles and buses. (d) At end of month, amounts financed to new agreements made were: June \$m 146, July \$m 144, August \$m 154, September \$m 144. † Based on the 1973-74 census of retail establishments.

WAGES, FACTORY OVERTIME AND RETAIL PRICES

WAGES, FACTORY OVERTIME, AND RETAIL PRICES

Consumer price index, six capitals, 1966-67 = 100.0 unless otherwise noted (a)														
Month	Average weekly earnings per employed male unit \$		Weekly wage rates index, adult males (c) 1954 = 100	Factory overtime (b) at larger private factories hours		All groups	Food (d)	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transportation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care (e)	Recreation (f)
	Original	Seas. adj.		Original	Seas. adj.									
1977-78														
October	212.50	205.00	520.2	2.3	2.2	239.6	222.4	256.5	273.2	211.7	239.2	239.2	311.0	112.6
November			520.2	2.7	2.5		222.2							
December			527.9	2.6	2.5		221.7							
January	205.10	213.00	527.9	2.1	2.6	242.7	222.6	259.3	276.9	213.8	243.0	241.9	317.8	114.9
February			535.8	2.4	2.3		223.6							
March			535.8	2.3	2.1		224.4							
April	216.30	215.80	535.7	2.3	2.4	247.7	227.7	265.6	281.7	218.3	245.9	242.8	337.3	116.0
May			535.7	2.4	2.3		229.0							
June			542.5	2.5	2.6									
1978-79														
July	213.90	220.40	542.5	2.5	2.6	252.5	234.9	269.0	285.2	221.1	251.2	245.3	350.2	117.6
August			542.5	2.4	2.5		236.0							
September			545.9	2.7	2.7		238.8							
October			n.y.a.	2.8	2.7		242.6							
November			n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.		244.0							

(a) The composition of the groups and the group structure of the index has been altered with the introduction, from December quarter 1976, of the ninth Consumer Price Index series. (b) Source: Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Average hours worked in survey week. (c) Weighted average. Excludes rural. (d) Quarterly series may be derived by averaging the three monthly figures. However, in some cases quarterly index numbers so derived differ slightly from the quarterly figure as published in Consumer Price Index bulletins due to rounding. (e) Base December quarter 1968 = 100.0. (f) Base September quarter 1976 = 100.0.

BUILDING, ETC.

												Price indexes (a)		New capital expenditure by private enterprises				
		Building approvals \$m		Building approvals dwellings '000 units		Government building approved \$m		Building commenced total \$m		Dwellings commenced '000 units		Materials used in house building	Materials used in other than house building	Buildings and structures \$m		Other capital equipment \$m		
Month		Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original			Original	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78	October	542.3	528.1	11.0	10.9	108.8	1,483.0	1,594.5	27.6	29.3	249.2	245.8	249.8	247.7	554.3	498.4	1,257.1	1,174.1
	November	554.2	528.4	11.1	10.6	126.5												
	December	493.0	535.4	9.9	10.8	129.0												
	January	407.2	512.0	7.8	10.2	101.2	1,464.6	1,488.7	27.5	28.1	251.0	251.9	251.8	250.7	397.8	478.3	1,107.1	1,259.3
	February	434.9	495.1	8.7	9.8	88.1												
	March	500.2	535.3	10.1	10.2	110.7												
	April	518.9	513.6	10.0	10.0	129.9	1,726.0	1,634.6	30.5	29.7	253.7	255.1	255.1	252.9	517.1	497.2	1,541.2	1,454.5
	May	562.3	482.9	11.1	9.7	113.7												
	June	585.5	504.7	11.0	9.9	170.9												
1978-79	July	468.6	451.8	9.4	9.3	81.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	29.2	27.7	259.0	258.5	260.2	259.4	516.8	508.3	1,456.3	1,470.3
	August	573.1	589.9	10.4	9.9	120.1												
	September	522.8	522.8	9.9	9.9	72.1												
	October	582.5	545.4	11.1	10.6	105.7					262.0	260.9	260.9	259.9				
	November	580.2	553.8	11.3	10.6	108.9					263.0	262.5	262.5	262.5				

(a) Weighted average six State capital cities. 1966-67 = 100.0.

FINANCE

Month	Savings banks — Depositors' Balances (a)		Major Trading Banks (b)				Finance companies balances outstanding (c)	Housing finance for owner occupation — value of loans approved (d)			Commonwealth bond yield short dated (f) per cent	Listed companies new money raised (g)	Taxation revenue Commonwealth and State consolidated revenue funds	
	Balances (a)		Deposits		Advances			Banks	Permanent building societies	Other lenders (e)			Original	Original
	\$m		\$m		\$m		\$m				\$m	\$m		
Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 — September	16,876	16,744	17,035	17,495	12,529	12,590	15,537	230	170	89	9.74	416.2	1,503	2,015
October	17,082	16,874	17,429	17,591	12,926	12,851	15,714	241	137	100	9.42		1,534	1,982
November	17,103	16,979	17,728	17,794	12,964	13,085	16,003	308	147	100	9.27		2,195	2,067
December	17,248	17,171	17,860	17,549	12,970	13,153	16,329	210	129	83	9.26	223.7	1,608	2,015
January	17,380	17,341	18,056	17,452	12,857	12,920	16,340	245	122	73	8.99		1,877	2,105
February	17,543	17,516	18,342	17,590	12,869	13,193	16,399	272	136	86	8.83		2,071	2,093
March	17,453	17,528	18,745	17,846	13,159	13,443	16,533	292	134	83	8.83	389.6	1,980	2,119
April	17,409	17,681	18,620	18,147	13,463	13,340	16,668	250	129	93	8.83		3,030	2,127
May	17,650	17,934	17,890	18,061	13,757	13,573	17,037	307	150	95	8.82		3,672	1,982
June	18,046	18,065	17,593	18,296	13,626	13,485	17,066	253	140	83	8.83	2,321	2,007	
1978-79 — July	18,222	18,268	17,636	18,431	13,685	13,533	17,296	256	149	80	8.83	396.9	1,648	2,131
August	18,381	18,358	18,255	18,870	13,962	13,962	17,299	303	170	89	8.79		2,113	2,066
September	18,537	18,388	18,600	19,166	14,116	14,184	17,549	290	164	80	8.79		1,633	2,161
October	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	18,952	19,197	14,516	14,333	n.y.a.	300	177	93	8.69	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
November	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	19,232	19,214	14,488	14,445	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	8.66	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

(a) Excludes external territories. (b) Includes external territories. (c) Amounts shown relate to all types of finance agreements and provide a broad overall measure of finance company activity. For further details see the monthly publication *Finance Companies* (5614.0). (d) Includes loans for alterations and additions. (e) Includes Terminating Building Societies, Finance companies, Credit Unions, Insurance companies and Government Instrumentalities. (f) This series was previously based on rebate bonds which were issued prior to 1 November 1968. Income on these bonds was subject to income tax at current rates less a rebate of 10 cents in each dollar of Australian Government loan interest included in taxable income. The series is now based on non-rebate bonds.

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) ('000)

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ('000)

JOB VACANCIES ('000)

Month	Labour Force Survey (c)									Registered with CES (d) [for full-time work]	Unemployment benefit recipients (e)	Survey estimates (f)	Registered with CES (d)
	Males		Females		Persons		Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total				
	Original	Seas. adj. (b)	Original	Seas. adj. (b)	Original	Seas. adj. (b)							
1977-78 - October										370.3			21.1
November	4,050.4	4,061.0	2,291.9	2,283.8	6,342.2	6,343.7	277.4	69.4	346.8	357.0		36.4	20.3
December										404.1			20.0
January										445.3			24.9
February	4,112.4	4,086.0	2,296.9	2,285.9	6,409.3	6,368.7	395.8	81.3	477.0	431.3		36.0	22.3
March	4,087.6		2,320.5		6,408.1		345.7	74.6	420.3	410.0		36.3	19.5
April	4,078.5		2,326.4		6,404.9		333.5	67.6	401.1	402.5			18.6
May	4,072.6	4,064.3	2,321.4	2,321.7	6,394.0	6,386.4	331.6	63.7	395.3	392.2		32.2	17.9
June	4,076.7		2,307.5		6,384.2		330.5	61.8	392.3	393.8			17.2
1978-79 - July	4,059.3		2,316.8		6,376.1		325.4	52.6	378.0	393.4			18.3
August	4,053.8	4,077.7	2,311.5	2,329.5	6,365.3	6,410.8	332.6	63.1	395.7	388.6			18.1
September	4,059.0		2,310.5		6,369.6		324.8	59.7	384.5	382.7			19.2
October	4,062.7		2,311.5		6,374.1		305.9	61.6	367.5	380.2			20.7
November	4,052.4	4,063.2	2,314.6	2,307.4	6,367.0	6,369.5	308.8	60.9	369.7	399.2			19.3

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. The labour force is the sum of the employed and the unemployed. (b) Seasonally adjusted estimates available only for February, May, August and November. (c) Suspension of seasonally adjusted figures in this series is explained in *The Labour Force, November 1977* (6203.0). (d) Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service at Friday nearest the end of the month. (e) For reference dates see *The Labour Force* (6203.0). (f) Results of sample surveys of government employers and private payroll taxpayers conducted by the ABS at the last Friday of the month shown. For further notes relating to these estimates see *Job Vacancies, May 1978* (6231.0). As part of the measures necessary to bring the activities of the ABS within the resources available to it, the surveys of job vacancies have been terminated as from May 1978.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES (a) (b)

Month	Total civilian employees '000						Private/Government '000 persons				Principal industries '000 persons			
	Males		Females		Persons		Private		Government		Manufacturing		Wholesale and Retail Trade	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 - September (c)	2,955.3	2,961.9	1,756.8	1,754.6	4,712.1	4,716.5	3,241.3	3,245.3	1,470.8	1,471.2	1,145.2	1,145.3	965.1	967.9
October (c)	2,954.4	2,960.9	1,762.5	1,758.6	4,716.9	4,717.5	3,241.9	3,239.2	1,475.0	1,478.3	1,142.8	1,141.0	967.6	966.0
November	2,959.6	2,963.4	1,770.1	1,760.1	4,729.7	4,723.5	3,251.9	3,240.6	1,477.8	1,482.9	1,144.2	1,141.7	974.4	966.8
December	2,960.3	2,966.3	1,763.5	1,769.3	4,723.7	4,735.6	3,251.9	3,248.1	1,471.8	1,487.5	1,136.3	1,140.7	980.1	970.5
January	2,954.6	2,966.2	1,748.0	1,773.5	4,702.6	4,739.7	3,226.1	3,245.9	1,476.5	1,491.8	1,132.7	1,139.5	964.3	970.1
February	2,962.6	2,961.9	1,761.9	1,766.7	4,724.6	4,728.6	3,233.7	3,238.0	1,490.8	1,490.6	1,138.6	1,137.3	964.7	969.2
March	2,959.6	2,952.4	1,764.3	1,760.6	4,724.0	4,713.0	3,229.5	3,223.7	1,494.4	1,489.3	1,135.6	1,131.0	963.5	965.0
April	2,956.0	2,948.9	1,767.1	1,761.5	4,723.1	4,710.4	3,225.2	3,218.8	1,497.9	1,491.6	1,130.9	1,128.2	964.0	963.3
May	2,951.9	2,940.3	1,768.0	1,763.7	4,719.9	4,704.0	3,221.4	3,214.3	1,498.5	1,489.7	1,127.7	1,125.9	964.2	962.7
June (c)	2,943.8	2,933.9	1,769.6	1,766.9	4,713.4	4,700.8	3,214.9	3,211.3	1,498.5	1,489.5	1,123.6	1,123.1	964.3	964.2
1978-79 - July (c)	2,939.6	2,937.8	1,772.3	1,770.6	4,711.8	4,708.2	3,211.4	3,215.9	1,500.4	1,492.3	1,121.7	1,123.5	961.7	963.7
August	2,935.7	2,939.5	1,772.0	1,772.0	4,707.7	4,711.5	3,208.1	3,215.9	1,499.6	1,495.6	1,119.4	1,121.4	959.8	963.9
September (c)	2,934.9	2,941.4	1,774.5	1,772.1	4,709.4	4,713.5	3,210.9	3,214.8	1,498.5	1,498.7	1,120.2	1,120.3	961.9	964.4
October	2,936.6	2,942.9	1,783.3	1,777.2	4,719.9	4,720.1	3,220.9	3,218.1	1,499.0	1,502.0	1,126.7	1,124.9	967.4	965.8

(a) The estimates contained in this table are based on benchmarks established by analysing data from the 1971 population census and other relevant sources. Employees in agriculture and private domestic service, and defence forces are excluded. (b) For details of the methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1978* (1308.0). (c) Affected by industrial dispute.

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